

12 January 2005.

PRESS RELEASE

The Banking, Finance and Insurance Commission warns the public against the activities of the company Bruxelles Bank Finance & Security Service that claims on its website (http://www.bbfss.com) to have an address in Belgium, rue Colonel Bourg 125 in 1140 Evere, and that particularly proposes the online opening of bank accounts.

Bruxelles Bank Finance & Security Service is not authorized as a credit institution in Belgium. It does not have the authorizations required to provide banking services in or from within Belgium or to use the term "bank" or any other analogous term. The Commission advises the public against conducting business with that company and especially against opening an account with that purported bank and transferring any money to its representatives.

Additional information about the regularity of any transaction proposed can be found on the <u>Investors' page</u> on the web site of the Commission (www.cbfa.be), or through direct contact with the "Protection of Consumers of Financial Services" Department (telephone: +32 2 535 59 10; e mail address: <u>peri@cbfa.be</u>).